



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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## **KENTUCKY DERBY CONTENDER ZOZOS WORKS FIVE FURLONGS IN 1:00.60 AT CHURCHILL DOWNS**

### ***Oaks Fillies Secret Oath, Hidden Connection, Turnerloose Breeze for First Friday in May***

**LOUISVILLE, Ky. (Friday, April 15, 2022)** – It was an action-filled Friday morning at Churchill Downs where TwinSpires.com Louisiana Derby (Grade II) runner-up **Zozos** continued his preparation toward the \$3 million Kentucky Derby presented by Woodford Reserve (GI) with a five-furlong move in 1:00.60.

The trio of **Hidden Connection** (five furlongs, 1:00), **Secret Oath** (five furlongs, :59.20) and **Turnerloose** (five furlongs, 1:00.80), who are bound for the \$1.25 million Longines Kentucky Oaks (GI), also topped the Friday morning worktab.

**Barry** and **Joni Butzow**'s Zozos, the lightly-raced son of Munnings, worked in company at 5:30 a.m. (all times Eastern) with **Dawn** and **Ike Thrash**'s \$300,000 Rachel Alexandra (GII) winner Turnerloose. With jockey **Florent Geroux** in the saddle, Zozos started about one length behind his stablemate and worked through early fractions of :24 and :48.40. The duo began their five-furlong move at the half-mile pole and Zozos finished even with Turnerloose at the seven-furlong marker. Zozos galloped out six furlongs in 1:13.60.

"He's a really smart horse," Geroux said. "He's starting to come into his own and it was a really nice work this morning. I settled back of (Turnerloose) and he finished up nicely with her. Both horses worked well."

Shortly after Zozos and Turnerloose worked, **Hidden Brook Farm** and **Black Type Thoroughbreds**' \$400,000 TwinSpires.com Fair Grounds Oaks (GII) runner-up Hidden Connection clipped five furlongs in 1:00 under jockey **Reylu Gutierrez**. The Connect filly galloped out six furlongs in 1:12.60.

Gutierrez summed up the work in one word, "Awesome."

At 7:30 a.m., **Briland Farm**'s \$300,000 Honeybee (GIII) winner Secret Oath cruised five furlongs in :59.20 under jockey **Luis Saez**. The classy four-time winner began her work through opening eighth-mile fractions of :12.40, :23.60 and :35.20. She galloped out six furlongs in 1:12. Saez was named to ride the Arrogate filly in the Kentucky Oaks. In her last start, Secret Oath tested colts in the Arkansas Derby but flattened late to finish third behind **Cyberknife** and **Barber Road**.

"I talked to (jockey) **Luis (Contreras)** after the race and he was sort of surprised with how much of an explosive kick she had at the three-eighths pole," Hall of Fame trainer **D. Wayne Lukas** said. "With that explosive kick at that point in the race it was a little too much too soon. She got shuffled back at the start and got into contention but it was too much to ask. ... We ran in the Arkansas Derby for a million-and-a-quarter and I thought we were the best horse going into the race and I still think we were the best."

Other Kentucky Derby contenders that are based at Churchill Downs are the aforementioned Cyberknife, who is slated to work Saturday; UAE Derby winner **Crown Pride**; Louisiana Derby winner **Epicenter**; Gotham winner **Morello**; Blue Grass (GI) runner-up **Smile Happy**; Jeff Ruby Steaks runner-up and Lexington Stakes contender **Tawny Port**; and Jeff Ruby Steaks winner **Tiz the Bomb**.

The next Derby contender scheduled to arrive is Arkansas Derby runner-up Barber Road, who ships from Hot Springs, Ark. Friday at 2 p.m. and should arrive between 3-4 a.m. Saturday to Barn 46.

Training hours at Churchill Downs remain 5:30-10 a.m. with half-hour renovation breaks from 7-7:30 a.m. and 8:30-9 a.m. There is a 10-minute period for workers only from 7:30-7:40 a.m.

The 15-minute training window reserved for only Kentucky Derby and Oaks contenders will begin Saturday, April 23.

**OFFICIAL KENTUCKY DERBY PROGRAMS AVAILABLE NATIONWIDE** – Fans, party hosts, horseplayers and memorabilia collectors can now have official Kentucky Derby 148 souvenir programs shipped right to their doorstep in time for Kentucky Derby Day on Saturday, May 7.

Advance online ordering of programs is now available at [publications.churchilldowns.com](http://publications.churchilldowns.com).

These glossy programs are identical to those sold on track at Churchill Downs on Kentucky Derby Day, with full past performances for the entire card, as well as feature articles on Derby personalities, history and traditions.

Programs, which cost \$15 and are approximately 120 pages, will go to print following the May 2 post position draw for the Kentucky Derby and will ship May 5 via FedEx Priority Overnight for morning delivery on Friday, May 6.

There is a minimum of five programs per order. Payment will only be accepted online via major credit card.

The last day to order is Friday, April 29.

#### **ABOUT CHURCHILL DOWNS RACETRACK**

Churchill Downs Racetrack ("CDRT"), the world's most legendary racetrack, has been the home of The Kentucky Derby, the longest continually held annual sporting event in the United States, since 1875. Located in Louisville, CDRT features a series of themed race days during Derby Week, including the Kentucky Oaks, and conducts Thoroughbred horse racing during three race meets in the Spring, September, and the Fall. CDRT is located on 175 acres and has a one-mile dirt track, a 7/8-mile turf track, a stabling area, and provides seating for approximately 60,000 guests. The saddling paddock and the stable area has barns sufficient to accommodate 1,400 horses and a 114-room dormitory for backstretch personnel. CDRT also has a year-round simulcast wagering facility.

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